



November Monthly Activity Report

In November, the Georgia SRTS Resource Center team continued execution of Pedestrian Safety Education Trainings; conducted Tally Week, provided travel plan assistance; and continued to expand outreach efforts to grow relationships with current and prospective partners.

School Outreach Coordinator Activity Highlights

As of the end of November, the Outreach team secured **four new** schools as Partners. In November, Outreach conducted 127 meetings, gave 6 presentations, held two Pedestrian Safety Education trainings, implemented 45 programs, and submitted 28 school's student tallies to the National Center for SRTS.

Coastal Georgia (Patti Sistrunk, SOC)

Pedestrian Safety Education Training – Coastal Region

West Chatham Elementary School, Chatham County (Gold-level Partner)

The Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center hosted its fourth Pedestrian Safety Education Training on November 10, 2011. The training was held at West Chatham Elementary in Pooler. The school was an excellent venue and is always supportive of Safe Routes initiatives. Attendees at the training represented Friends of the Resource Center: Safe Kids Savannah, Safe Kids Kingsland, and Safe Kids Toombs; School Partners: Robert Toombs Academy, Charles Ellis Montessori, Godley Station School, White Bluff Elementary, Shuman Elementary, Haven Elementary, West Chatham Elementary, Carver Elementary, Largo Tibet Elementary, and J.G. Smith Elementary; and prospective Partner school: Lyons Primary.

Liberty Elementary, Liberty County (Bronze-level Partner)

The Coastal Regional Commission along with, Patti, the City of Midway Police, and Liberty Elementary are developing a Safe Routes Travel Plan for Liberty Elementary and Midway Middle in Midway. The two schools are located side-by-side in a residential area; however, a lack of sidewalks along a narrow two-lane road prevents safe access for walking and bicycling students. The planning process started this past summer. In November, Ron Sadowski of the Regional Commission and Patti met at the school to conduct a walk audit. Chief Morningstar of the Midway Police joined the audit and provided traffic information and law enforcement concerns. The school conducted student travel tallies (and videoed the process for a Resource Center "Way To Tally" Video). On November 17, the Liberty Elementary School Council met and presented a draft of the Travel Plan. Attendees included Principal Anderson, Champion Mrs. Boucher, Dr. Clemontine Washington (Mayor of Midway), Chief Morningstar, and school council members. Following the meeting, Mr. Sadowski and Patti visited the middle school principal to collect data and remind the school about Travel Tallies.

You can see the Travel Tally video featuring Liberty Elementary and Champion teacher Mrs. Boucher by going to this link: <http://www.saferoutesga.org/content/tips-tools>.

Mamie Lou Gross Elementary, Camden County (New Partner)

Patti alongside Safe Kids Kingsland Director, Charles Roney, set up the meeting and encouraged the principal, Dr. Bruce to sign on as a new Partner. Despite the lack of walking or bicycle students at the

school, Dr. Bruce is enthusiastic about the potential safety education. Mr. Roney is a co-Champion at the school with the PE Teacher. There are plans to introduce pedestrian safety education to all K-5 students. Patti provided the school with the Pedestrian Safety Curriculum. Mamie Lou Gross Elementary School serves approximately 300 students.

Camden County School District does not provide bus transportation to any children within one and a half miles of their school. Therefore, children must walk or travel by car. Mamie Lou Gross Elementary recently reversed their bus line and car line so that the car line queuing area would be longer to accommodate the large number of private vehicles at the school.

While in Camden County, Patti, accompanied by Mr. Roney, also visited Partner school Matilda Harris Elementary and potential partner Camden Middle, as well as the Deputy City Manager of the City of Kingsland and Safe Routes supporters at Camden Bicycle Center. An effort is underway to schedule a Safe Routes to School National Course workshop in Camden County in early January. A multi-use path infrastructure plan was established in Camden County and revised in 2009. The planning committee considered safe routes to school when developing priorities. With that in mind, the Resource Center and Safe Routes supporters in Camden County will continue to pursue partnership with all K-8 Camden County Schools.

Student Travel Tallies in the Coastal Region

The Coastal Region's partner schools participated in the First Official Georgia Tally Week November 1-3, 2011. The following school partners have submitted Tallies so far: Bartlett Middle, West Chatham Elementary, Thomson Elementary, Matilda Harris Elementary, Louisville Academy, Claxton Middle, Maxwell Elementary, Jacob G. Smith Elementary, Shuman Elementary, Isle of Hope Elementary, St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School, Haven Elementary, Charles Ellis Montessori, and Liberty Elementary. Patti is continuing to encourage Partners to complete tallies and to distribute parent surveys to continue evaluating our great work with Coastal Partner schools.

South Georgia (Nykia Burke, SOC)

South-GA Pedestrian Safety Education Workshop

The Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center hosted its sixth and final training on the NHTSA Pedestrian Safety Curriculum at Clubview Elementary School in Columbus, Georgia. This Gold-level Partner and recent infrastructure grant awardee was excited to promote and host the event. Attendees from as far away as Clayton County participated and included Midtown Columbus Inc.,- Midtown Schools Champion, River Valley Regional Commission, Clayton County Police Department, Safe Kids Columbus, and Clubview and Davis Elementary Schools. Clubview's physical education teacher was inspired by the training and is working to coordinate Nykia with the district-wide training during the next monthly PE teachers meeting. Nykia is also working with the Safe Kids Columbus' volunteer coordinator to extend the reach of this new SRTS resource.

Columbus "More Pedal, Less Metal" Bicycle Safety Rodeo

More than 100 families participated in the 2nd annual Columbus "More Pedal, Less Metal" bicycle event on Saturday, November 19. Community members were encouraged to participate in an 8-mile bike ride from Uptown Columbus, to the event site at Oxbrow Meadows where families were greeted with a healthy breakfast and information on bicycling in Columbus. The River Valley Regional Commission facilitates this event each year and coordinated with Nykia to include the communities' children via a bicycle safety rodeo. Safe Kids Columbus provided free helmets and

fittings while a local bike shop, Ride on Bikes, provided free child and adult sized bicycles for skills practice. Children and adults were invited to participate in learning the ABC's of bicycle maintenance, maneuver through an obstacle course, and practice key bicycle safety skills. Brent Buice, Executive Director of Georgia Bikes! presented as the guest speaker for the day's events. Nykia assisted with the bicycle rodeo and provided parents and children with bicycle and pedestrian safety information.



Central Georgia (Sandie Parker, SOC)

Stockbridge Middle School, Henry County (Bronze-level Partner)

Stockbridge Middle School, a SRTS infrastructure awardee is building strong programs in anticipation of future sidewalks. Currently, over 50% of the student population is driven to school because the walking route is not safe. The school is implementing walking clubs one day each month during connections classes. Education about active living and healthy lifestyles is implemented in coordination with the connections class. Over 675 students are walking monthly. Joy Sims physical education teacher as Stockbridge Middle School stated; "We love to encourage the students to walk / bike to school we just need sidewalks that would provide a safe route to school. This is such an excellent program and I'm thrilled to be a part of it." Stockbridge Middle has begun educating the kids on Pedestrian Safety using the training they received when Ms. Simms attended the SRTS Resource Center's Pedestrian Education Training in October.

Stockbridge Middle School iWalk



Bibb County Board Of Education

David Gowan, Risk Management and Safety Director for Bibb County Schools, and Cleta Long, Director of School Nutrition for Bibb County Schools, requested Sandie attend Bibb County's first Coordinated School Health Program organizational meeting. Coordinated School Health is recommended by the CDC as a strategy for improving student's health and learning in school. The program consists of eight interactive components which include health education, physical education, health service, nutrition services, counseling, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff, and family/community involvement. The school system is partnering with many agencies to work together to implement the Coordinated School Health Program.

Some of the agencies represented along with the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center are Community Health Works, Bibb County Health Department, The Mentor, local non-profit Health Clinic, and Health Empowers. Other essential departments of Bibb County's School System that attended were school nurses, maintenance and transportation department, special needs, campus police, public relations, and the physical education department.

Mr. Gowan and Ms. Long listed the eight components and then committees were formed to concentrate on the each individual component. Each committee has a chairperson and members designed to focus on the component while building partnerships, enhancing communication between the school and the public and getting students engaged. Sandie was asked to chair Physical Education and be a member of the Health Education and the Family and Community Involvement components.

The Coordinated School Health Committee will meet quarterly. Sandie is excited to expand the reach of the SRTS program in Bibb County.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission and City of Centerville

Sandie met with Bob Rychel from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to discuss Houston County Schools' participation with the Georgia Safe Routes to School program. Mr. Rychel is currently assisting the City of Centerville on a recent T&E grant that the city was awarded. One element of the grant includes sidewalks that will connect Centerville Elementary and Thomson Middle School to the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Rychel and Sandie coordinated a meeting with the City of Centerville to discuss building support for Safe Routes to School programs and partnering Centerville Elementary School and Thomson Middle School.

Metro Atlanta (Nykia Burke, SOC)

Montgomery Elementary School, Dekalb County (Bronze-level Partner)

On November 7 Nykia Burke coordinated a walkability audit at Montgomery Elementary School. This Bronze-level school recently partnered and has committed to achieving Gold-level partnership within this school year. In addition to full, active support from the school's principal, a SRTS committee has been formed to address the health and safety concerns in the Montgomery community. This committee includes representation from the PTA, the school wellness committee, teachers, and staff. Chair positions will be developed for PTA and School Wellness to ensure sustainability of SRTS efforts.

Participants of the walk audit included members of the Montgomery ES SRTS committee, school champion, Principal, concerned parents, and the Dekalb County Board of Health, Injury Prevention Coordinator. School arrival was observed and disregard for school drop-off policies contributed most notably to safety concerns. Montgomery ES's Principal immediately committed to increased communication of school policy and safety tips to parents. Nykia will continue to work with the SRTS team to identify strategies to include the safety patrol. Following arrival, the group walked the perimeter of the school and identified problematic intersections and unsafe walking/biking conditions. Nykia will work with the school's champion and team to develop a comprehensive approach to these concerns and build the Montgomery SRTS program.

Evansdale Elementary School, Dekalb County (Silver-Level Partner)

The National Center for Safe Routes to School awarded one of its coveted \$1000 mini-grants to Evansdale Elementary. This Silver-level partner is a neighborhood school with 520 students. Due to changes in zoning, Evansdale will receive an additional 90 students residing within 1.5 miles of the school. All of these students will be required to cross a busy four-lane arterial road when walking or biking to school. Prior to rezoning, twelve percent of Evansdale's students walked to school daily, with 150-250 students participating in International and Georgia Walk-to-School Day events. The mini-grant will fund encouragement activities and safety projects. In addition to expanding their Walk and Roll Wednesday campaign, the funds will be used for student designed, semi-permanent signs with varying safety messages. These signs will be mounted in the Evansdale community and will encourage driver awareness of pedestrians and cyclists. Finally, the funds will also be used to pilot an innovative pedestrian safety measure at the intersection identified as the most dangerous. Students will be encouraged to utilize brightly colored pedestrian flags to gain driver attention.



Northwest Georgia (Alicia Hatcher, SOC)

Bells Ferry Elementary, Cobb County (Prospective New Partner)

Outreach met with Randa Burden, PE Teacher, after meeting her at the Pedestrian Safety Education training held at Addison Elementary in October. Bells Ferry Elementary is located close to a busy road and not many students currently walk. There are several apartment complexes nearby and sidewalks in place, but safety measures would need to be in place before students could safely walk to school. Mrs. Burden's goals for the program are to teach all students pedestrian safety and participate in Georgia Walk to School Day in March. A walk audit is being planned for January in cooperation with the Cobb County Planning Department.

Travel Tallies

The Resource Center celebrated the first dedicated Travel Tally Week November 1-3, 2011. Northwest Georgia had a great showing and many schools participated. The following schools completed their tallies: Addison Elementary, Bascomb Elementary, Blue Ridge Elementary, Brookwood Elementary, Cheatham Hill Elementary, Chickamauga Elementary, Floyd Middle, LaBelle Elementary, Mableton Elementary, Roan Elementary, Still Elementary, and Westwood Elementary.

Northeast Georgia (Andy Pittman, SOC)

White County (County-wide Partnership)

On November 15 Andy had the opportunity to meet and present to Tom O'Bryant in Cleveland. Tom is the Manager of the White County Planning Commission and is going to be spearheading the introduction of Safe Routes to School to all of the City of Cleveland's schools. While the elementary and middle schools in Cleveland are located within the city, there are very few walkers and bikers. Andy and Mr. O'Bryant are developing a plan to address education and encouragement activities that will encourage more walking and biking. Andy and Tom will be presenting to the city council as well as the administration for each school. Cleveland is interested in hosting a National Course in January.

Athens Athletic Association and Barrow Elementary School, Clarke County (Gold-level Partner)

“Walk with the Dogs Event”



Barrow Elementary was treated in their November Monthly Walk to School Day by having local Georgia Bulldog celebrities help host their event. University of Georgia Football Players showed up in the morning and walked with the students, handed out incentive items and even helped educate the children on the benefits of being physically active.

Barrow participated in Tally week and has completed both their In-class Student Tallies and their Parent Surveys for this semester.

SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group)

During November, the marketing team focused on key deliverables in each of three current tasks:

Task Order 4 and 7: Program Management and Staffing

- Provided program oversight and management
- Staffed the Resource Center telephone hotline
- Conducted a webinar for Travel Plan recipients to better understand Travel Plan process
- Coordinated Travel Plan discussion

Task Order 5: Marketing and Outreach

- Provided program management and oversight
- Updated Resource Center web site including training of team on updating site
- Continued work on education and marketing material
- Revised Planning Guide
- Developed and posted Tally Week video for distribution

Task Order 6: Pedestrian Safety Education

Continued training planning and preparation including:

Communication with Resource Center PM and Outreach team about training locations, timeframes, and registration

Updated online registration